under RPDS. These allocations are meant to be over and above the normal allocations. In addition to allocations for PDS, foodgrains are also allocated to States under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY). The State Governments including Orissa and Rajasthan undertake relief employment works in areas facing acute drought and scarcity conditions.

Non obtaining of B.I.S. approval by soap manufacturers

3. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN :
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the toilet soaps are not tested by Bureau of Indian Standards; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government would make it mandatory for the manufacturers to obtain B.I.S. approval on their products including toilet soaps; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce regulations to print compositions on the covers or wrappers of the soaps to facilitate the consumers for taking up their issues of quality and quantity under Consumer Protection Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Testing of samples of toilet soaps under the BIS Certification Marks scheme is voluntary in nature.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) The manner of labelling of cosmetic is provided for in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Consumer cooperatives in rural and remote areas

4. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up consumer cooperatives in all rural and remote areas for fair distribution of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The operational responsibility for implementation of Public Distribution System is that of the State Governments/UT Administrations. Decisions regarding opening and allocation of fair price shops (FPSs) including preferential allotment to specific categories of persons/organisations including cooperatives are taken by the State Governments. The Central Government had earlier advised the State Governments to consider priority allotment of FPSs to the co-operatives.

5. [Transferred to 30th April' 1993]

Working of Fair Price Shops

6. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present existing Fair Price shops under PDS are working smoothly in Urban as well as in Rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of such FPS, Statewise city-wise and rural area-wise;

(c) whether there is a scheme under Government's consideration to open more Fair Price Shops to provide items of ration, cloth and other consumable items/goods to the consumers particularly for those residing in remote rural areas; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such scheme and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON-

SUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) The working of the Public Distribution System is, by and large, satisfactory. In an operation of such a vast magnitude some shortcomings/deficiencies cannot be altogether ruled out.

Decision with regard to opening of fair price shops is taken by the State Governments taking into account the needs of the consumers and the economic viability of the fair price shops. The Central Government has a scheme to provide financial assistance to States for purchasing vans to be used as mobile fair price shops to serve the needs of the consumers residing in remote/rural areas. Under the scheme, presently Rs. 4 lakhs per van is provided as financial assistance to the State Governments on 50% grant and 50% loan basis. Such vans could also be used for effecting door step delivery of PDS commodities to the fair price shops in the Revamped Public Distribution System areas.

A statement showing the State-wise number of fair price shops with rural and urban break up is given below.

STATEMENT

Information regarding Number of fair Price shops

(As on 31-03-1992)

Sl.	No. of the State/UT	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Adhra Pradesh	30310	6947	37257
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	529	70	599
3.	Assam	23880	3154	27034
4.	Bihar	35023	9236	44259
5.	Goa	431	146	577
6.	Gujarat	9693	3181	12874
7	Haryana	4760	2221	6991
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3083	222	3305
9.	Jammu & Kashmir @	2077	556	2633
10.	Karnataka@	12815	4549	17364
11.	Kerala@	—	13050	13050
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14409	3292	17701
13.	Maharashtra	25527	11116	36643
14.	Manipur	1593	170	1763
15.	Meghalaya	2902	614	3516
16.	Mizoram	668	206	874
17.	Nagaland@	202	271	473
18.	Orissa	19589	3095	22684
19.	Punjab	8162	2506	10668
20.	Rajasthan	11714	3903	15617
21.	Sikkim	809	596	1405
22.	Tamil Nadu	16865	5112	21977
23.	Tripura	1115	159	1274
24.	Uttar Pradesh	63162	11076	74238
25.	West Bengal	15343	4923	20260
26.	A & N Islands	243	83	326
27.	Chandigarh	51	275	326
28.	D & N Haveli	59	—	59
29.	Daman & Diu	20	21	41
30.	Delhi	279	3276	3555
31.	Lakshadweep@	19	12	31
32.	Pondicherry@	167	191	358

*Relates to March, 1991

@Relates to December, 1991